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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0860
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY 9542
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY 3188
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES PRIORITY 3340
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 6391
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0914

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 001120

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR IO/RHS REBECCA JOVIN AND DRL/MLGA LYNN SICADE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/05/2018

TAGS: PHUM PREL UN IT

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: UNGA THIRD COMMITTEE 2008
PRIORITIES

REF: STATE 93981

Classified By: Poloff Gabriel Escobar for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche on USG human rights priorities for the 2008 UN General Assembly Third Committee on September 5 to MFA Acting Human Rights Office Director Giuditta Giorgio. Giorgio confirmed the EU's long-standing opposition to no-action motions and said Italy supported this principled position. She also confirmed Italy's support for the Canadian resolution on Iran, as well as the EU's plan to table resolutions on Burma and the DPRK, which she said were among the bloc's key human rights priorities this year. Italy remains strongly opposed to the resolution sponsored by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on "defamation of religions." She said she understood that the EU did intend to table its "religious intolerance" resolution in the Third Committee in addition to the Human Rights Council, which she agreed would serve as a useful counterweight to the OIC resolution. Giorgio took note of our proposals on Zimbabwe and prisoners of conscience and said they would be discussed in Brussels so that the EU could establish a common position.

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